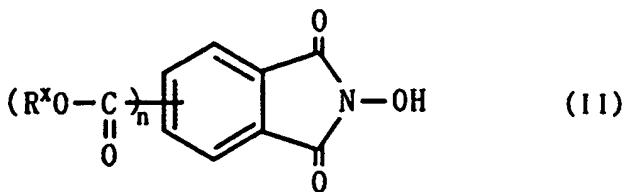


**AMENDED CLAIM SET:**

1. – 3. (cancelled).
4. (previously presented) The catalyst according to claim 10, further comprising a metallic compound.
5. – 9. (cancelled).
10. (currently amended) A catalyst of comprising a cyclic imide compound represented by following Formula (II):



wherein  $R^x$  is a hydrocarbon group having five to twenty or more carbon atoms; and  $n$  denotes an integer of from 1 to 4, where the groups  $-C(=O)-OR^x$  may be the same or different when  $n$  is equal to or more than 2, optionally comprising a metallic compound.

11. (previously presented) The catalyst compound of claim 10 identified as 4-dodecyloxycarbonyl-N-hydroxyphthalimide, having a Fedors solubility parameter of 24.7.

12. (previously presented) The catalyst compound of claim 10 identified as 4-decyloxycarbonyl-N-hydroxyphthalimide, having a Fedors solubility parameter of 25.4.

13. (previously presented) The catalyst compound of claim 10 identified as 4,5-bis(hexyloxycarbonyl)-N-hydroxyphthalimide, having a Fedors solubility parameter of 25.5.

14. (previously presented) The catalyst compound of claim 10 identified as 4,5-bis(octyloxycarbonyl)-N-hydroxyphthalimide, having a Fedors solubility parameter of 24.3.